

Appl. No. 09/698,107
Amdt. Dated Jul. 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-8 (withdrawn from consideration)

Claim 9 (original)

The method of manufacturing a catalytic converter for an internal combustion engine exhaust comprising the steps of:

- providing a length of metal fabric;
- roll stamping indentations into the surface of said metal fabric;
- heating and quenching the surface of said fabric;
- etching said fabric by shot-blast etching;
- coating said fabric with a liquid ceramic material;
- spooling said coated fabric into individual cartridges;
- oven-firing said cartridges;
- impregnating said ceramic material with a catalytic precious metal; and
- oven-firing said cartridges a second time.

Claim 10 (currently amended)

The method of manufacturing the catalytic converter of claim ~~10~~ 9 further including the final step of pressing ~~said coiled coated substrate~~ fabric into an outer metal casing.

Claim 11 (currently amended)

The method of manufacturing the catalytic converter of claim ~~10~~ 9 further described in that said ceramic material is from the group of gamma alumina, zirconia or zeolite.

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Claim 12 (currently amended)

The method of manufacturing the catalytic converter of Claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein said precious metal is from the group of platinum, palladium or rhodium.

Claim 13 (currently amended)

The method of manufacturing the catalytic converter of Claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein said step of coating said fabric with a ceramic material comprises first passing said fabric through a bath of liquid ceramic material to coat said fabric, and then blowing off an excess of said ceramic material from said fabric with pressurized air.

Claim 14 (currently amended)

The method of manufacturing the catalytic converter of claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein said step of etching said fabric further described as moving said fabric beneath two blast guns and applying a 180° twist to said fabric at a point between said blast guns, one blast gun being upstream of said twist and a second blast gun being downstream of said twist, whereby said blast guns etch both sides of said fabric with an abrasive blast.